

Serial No.: 09/929,465

Examiner: Philip C. Tucker

Art Unit: 1712

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14, 15, and 16, and please delete claim 17, to read as indicated below.

1. (Previously Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting essentially of a blend of esters and isomerized olefins.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins have a branched structure.
4. (Previously re-presented—formerly dependent claim 4) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of esters and isomerized olefins having a cyclic structure.
5. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
6. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
7. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said esters comprise about 5 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
8. (Previously re-presented—formerly dependent claim 8) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, said method comprising providing esters prepared from fatty acids and alcohols and blending said esters with isomerized olefins for the base of said emulsion.
9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.

14. (Currently Twice Amended) An invert emulsion drilling fluid ~~comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a~~ having an ester and isomerized olefin hydrocarbon blended base ~~consisting essentially of a blend of esters and isomerized olefin hydrocarbons.~~
15. (Currently Amended) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons are selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of branched olefins, poly-branched olefins, and mixtures thereof.
16. (Currently Amended) The drilling fluid of claim 15 wherein ~~at least one each~~ double bond site is ~~either~~ internal the molecule ~~or at the alpha position of the molecule.~~
17. (Canceled).
18. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
19. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
20. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
21. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
22. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
23. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
24. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
25. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
26. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.

27. (Previously Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting essentially of a blend of esters and paraffin hydrocarbons.
28. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.
29. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
30. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
31. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
32. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
33. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
34. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
35. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
36. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
37. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.
38. (Previously Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting essentially of a blend of esters and mineral oil hydrocarbons.
39. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise less than about 1 weight percent aromatics.
40. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons are selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of linear paraffins,

isoparaffins, cycloparaffins, branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, and mixtures thereof, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

41. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise olefins, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
42. (Canceled).
43. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters comprise at least about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
44. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
45. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
46. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
47. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
48. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
49. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids.
50. (Currently Twice Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and other esters wherein said glyceride triesters are obtained or derived from an oil selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of: olive oil, canola oil, castor oil, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, lard oil, linseed oil, neatsfoot oil, palm oil, peanut oil, perilla oil, rice bran oil, safflower oil, sardine oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, and mixtures thereof.
51. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said glyceride triesters comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
52. (Canceled)
53. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.

54. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
55. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 54 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
56. (Previously Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and other esters prepared from fatty acids and alcohols having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
57. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
58. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.
59. (Withdrawn) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of linear alpha olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons.
60. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.
61. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
62. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
63. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise less than about 50 weight percent of the blend.
64. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said linear alpha olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said drilling fluid.
65. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 59 wherein said linear alpha olefins comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
66. (Withdrawn) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion where said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising isomerized olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons.

67. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 66 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, or mixtures thereof.
68. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 66 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
69. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 66 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
70. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 66 wherein said isomerized olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said drilling fluid.
71. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 66 wherein said isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
72. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 56 wherein said isomerized olefins are selected from the group comprising internal olefins, cyclic olefins, and mixtures thereof.
73. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 72 wherein said internal olefins may be straight chain or branched chain.
74. (Withdrawn) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of naphthenic hydrocarbons and other paraffin hydrocarbons.
75. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, isoparaffins, or mixtures thereof.
76. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
77. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
78. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein said naphthenic hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said drilling fluid.
79. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein said naphthenic hydrocarbons comprise a saturated, cycloparaffinic material having a chemical formula:
 $C_{sub.n}H_{sub.2n}$ where n is about 5 to about 30.

80. (Withdrawn) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising isomerized olefins and other hydrocarbons.
81. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 1 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
82. (Previously Amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid prepared according to the method of claim 14 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
83. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 27 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
84. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 38 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
85. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 50 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
86. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 59 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
87. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 66 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
88. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 74 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
89. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 80 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.

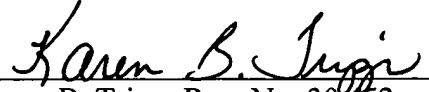
Serial No.: 09/929,465

Examiner: Philip C. Tucker

Art Unit: 1712

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 24, 2004



Karen B. Tripp, Reg. No. 30,452

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 1301

Houston, Texas 77251-1301

(713) 658-9323 phone

(713) 658-9410 fax

ktripp@tripplaw.com e-mail

c: Craig W. Roddy, Esq.